

Good afternoon members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

My name is Stephen Pelton, my wife and I run Ecosmart Home Services by R. Pelton Builders. I helped to set up and now serve on the board of the Home Performance Alliance of CT, the CT chapter of Efficiency First. Our company performs residential energy upgrades through the Home Energy Solutions program; we also work in the Small Business Energy Advantage program which reduces the energy costs of businesses. We are a BPI training facility as well as builders and home renovators with 2 deep rehabs going on which we are self-funding. These homes will have substantially lower operating costs than homes of equal size and age.

During the October jobs session, my Representatives, Rep. Nafis and Sen. Doyle, have worked with me on raising awareness on what this cap will do if it is not removed. **Due to the CEEF funded programs, we were able to retain our employees from our home improvement and building activities and add 25 jobs over the past 2 ½ years.**

Due to this cap not being addressed yet we have frozen any hiring, suspended our TV commercials promoting the Home Energy Solutions program in the month of February and have prepared the plans to lay off 15 of our people. But, being in business we have also planned for this committee to do the right thing and remove this cap. **We have applied for the DECD's new job creation programs passed during the October jobs bill and we are planning on hiring 10-12 new people over the next 6 month should this cap be removed.** We are counting on the E&T Committee to do the right thing and allow all CT residents to utilize the energy and money savings from the HES program equally. The Program Administrators, DEEP and PURA should be allowed to run the energy conservation programs to the benefit of all CT residents. The savings from this program save people money and stimulate the economy without regard to the fuel type. The E&T committee should be taking the lead in developing a BTU based program not hindering its development.

**If this cap is not removed it will eliminate the following:**

- Governor Malloy's goals of weatherizing 80 percent of the homes by 2030
- Returning to the number 1 program in the country
- Growing green jobs and reducing unemployment
- Companies like mine investing for the long term in 'Green Jobs'
- New training programs for Solar and Renewable companies which need HES
- Solar and Geothermal projects on Oil Heated homes (they need HES 1<sup>st</sup>)

Sometimes the right thing to do is so obvious it's frustrating, this is one of those times., **Please do the right thing and get rid of this cap** and let PURA and DEEP manage these programs. The ramifications of this cap not being removed are huge – **this committee would be responsible for more job loss than the Jackson Labs project would create.**

Stephen and Rebecca Pelton

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